



WPD NEWS

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**** News Release ****

Problem: A Child Who Has A Hard Time Getting To School Solution: Wichita Police Officer Ginny Wylie

Linwood Elementary third-grader Daniel Hearlson's school year got off to a bad start. Because of illness, the youngster's mom wasn't able to drive him to school, even though the family lived only four blocks away. And, because the child lived so close to Linwood, he didn't qualify for busing.

When Daniel tried walking to school, he had difficulty remembering his way, and that often made him late for classes. Once, he even got lost. That's when Officer Ginny Wylie at Patrol South decided to step in and help.

After meeting with Linwood Elementary Social Worker Jill Evans about the problem, Wylie got permission from Daniel's mom to work with the child and teach him how to find his way to school. Wylie spent time walking Daniel to and from school. She even taught him a shortcut through Linwood Park that kept him away from traffic. And, because the "Walk/Don't Walk" signs at the intersection of Hydraulic and Mt. Vernon were turned the wrong way, Wylie got the Public Works Department to turn them facing the right direction so Daniel could read them.

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“Finally, after working with him for several days, Daniel said he was ready to strike out on his own,” said Wylie. “That morning, I dressed in civilian clothes and followed him at a distance, just to make sure he’d make it. When he got to school, I called to him and waived. He didn’t know I’d been following him, and when he saw me, he broke into a big grin,” she said. “He was very proud of himself.”

Evans has high praise for Daniel and Wylie. “Now, he makes it to school on time. And, Ginny is always here to help us.”

Daniel one day may qualify to ride the bus to Linwood. But until then, thanks to Officer Ginny Wylie, a big problem in a small child’s life has been solved.

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Officer Ginny Wylie